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On their own
*Airmen talk
'dorm life'*

Snowed in
RAF Lakenheath
hit by storm

Division dreams

Boys, girls teams part ways in pursuit of title



JET 48 Vol. 30 No. 5
Friday, Feb. 7, 2003

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ON THE COVER

Lakenheath High School Lancer John Rogers works to get inside the paint during a tough game against the Division I leaders, the Heidelberg High School Lions, Saturday. Photo by Maj. Francisco G. Hamm. For more information about the high school competition, see Page 17.

Secretary, chief send Columbia message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — *The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:*

On Saturday, our nation and the world lost seven courageous, talented individuals when the Space Shuttle Columbia Orbiter (STS-107) experienced catastrophic failure 15 minutes prior to landing at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Among these brave astronauts were two officers from the Air Force family: Col. Rick Husband, mission commander from Amarillo, Texas; and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, payload commander from Spokane, Wash.

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Air Force, we offer our deepest condolences to our Air Force family members Evelyn Husband and her children Laura and Matthew, and Sandra Anderson and her children Sydney and Kaycee. We stand together with all Americans in offering our prayers for the families, friends and co-workers of those lost in this tragic accident.

We will never forget their great contributions to our nation and the world.

While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, we are also very proud of the Air Force team that has tirelessly assisted in the response to this national tragedy. Air Force Space Command units from Peterson, Buckley and Patrick Air Force Bases provided tracking data as part of the accident investigation. Tanker units from Birmingham, Ala., and fighter squadrons from Texas and Louisiana supported a number of search and recovery actions. We've also flown communications support out of Texas and Oklahoma and provided airlift support from McGuire AFB, New Jersey. Barksdale AFB provided part of the Initial Response Teams supporting the Texas Department of Public Safety in recovery efforts and continues to function as FEMA's Consequence Management Operations Center and NASA Shuttle Recovery Center. The Air Force family will continue to offer support to the astronaut's families,

Department of Defense, NASA, FEMA, and state organizations.

We grieve for our friends and co-workers, but we also join the rest of the world in celebrating seven lives well lived and promise to continue to support the space

program's noble mission of discovery.

May God bless the grieving families, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.



Graphic by Leslie Benito

Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts Lt. Col. Michael Anderson (left) and Col. Rick Husband.

CSAF discusses AEF role during current buildup

BY GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER

AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

WASHINGTON (USAFENS) — The Air and Space Expeditionary Force structure is a powerful tool that has enabled us to successfully support long standing contingency operations. Sustaining on-going requirements with three-month rotations has become part of our Air Force culture. But we need to remember that the AEF structure also allows us to posture for a full range of combat operations — including major theater contingencies that require more forces than can be provided by one AEF pair on a three-month rotation. When the time comes to build a force bigger than one AEF pair and/or deploy it for a time frame that may exceed three months, AEF is the mechanism that we use to select units who are best prepared to meet the needs of the situation. We are now reaching this point with our preparations for

expanded operations in Southwest Asia.

The combined efforts of the entire Air Force team — active, reserve component and civilians — are needed to meet the challenges of the coming weeks and months. With this in mind, I want to personally notify every airman that the time has come for us to begin to build up airpower in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility

to achieve national security objectives if directed by our commander-in-chief. In keeping with the intent of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, we must interrupt our normal three-month AEF rotation cycle because the resources in a single AEF pair can no longer satisfy the needs of our combatant commands. Although AEF rotation timing will change, we will make every effort to preserve the AEF sequence, which will give us the ability to sustain our operations over the long term. When able, we will return to a more normalized three-month AEF battle rhythm.

Active-duty and mobilized reserve airmen deployed as members of AEF 7 and 8 or deploying to the AOR as part of current crisis taskings, should anticipate remaining in place until further notice. Deployed and deploying mobilized reserve airmen will be extended on active duty as necessary. I assure you that we will continue to assess the evolving situation and develop rotation plans, which seek to relieve our forces in the most equitable fashion while still meeting combatant commanders' warfighting requirements. Reserve component airmen supporting our efforts are critical contributors; we will continue to utilize volunteers to the greatest possible extent. As necessary, the extension of mobilization orders for deployed and deploying reserve airmen and new mobilizations, will be worked in accordance with established laws and regulations.

Our success as an Air Force depends on how we prepare for and execute operations. I know this is a lot to ask and I am confident that every airman understands we have been called upon once again by our nation. I have never been prouder of our Air Force and of the great men and women that bring America's resolve to the doorsteps of those who would seek to inflict harm upon us and our allies. I know you are all equal to the task and I look forward to seeing our great Air Force continue to successfully defend American values and freedoms.



Jumper

YOUR LINK TO THE COMMANDER

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call 7-2324, fax 7-5637, e-mail (Action.Line@lakenheath.af.mil), send through distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Building 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, please leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names are confidential.

John T. Beaman
48th Fighter Wing commander

ACTION LINE



Photo by 1st Lt. Chris Watt

A 48th Civil Engineer Squadron horizontal repair snow sweeper makes another run down a taxiway here Jan. 30. 48th CES airmen and Ministry of Defence employees cleared more than 1.8 million cubic feet of snow from the base airfield and roads Jan. 30 to Sunday.

Team Liberty plows through winter storm

BY 1ST LT. CHRIS WATT

48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Twelve tons of salt and enough snow to completely cover the London Eye was moved by base civil engineer troops in the first 72 hours of the winter storm that hit Southern England Jan. 30.

Active-duty and Ministry of Defence members of the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron's horizontal repair and structures shops only stopped working around-the-clock shifts Sunday after moving over 1.8 million cubic feet of snow from the base's streets, taxi-ways and runway during the region's heaviest snowfall in twelve years.

Working with only five snowplows and two snow sweepers, 48th CES and 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron joined together with troops from 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron to keep equipment running and clear runways, taxiways and protective aircraft shelter areas. Despite a snowstorm that brought most of England to a standstill, Team Liberty held its torch high and kept the mission going.

"We couldn't have performed better," said Lt. Col. Joseph Ward, 48th Mission Support Group deputy commander. "Our guys made maximum use of limited equipment and

worked around the clock to ensure (the wing) could continue our mission to launch and recover jets."

As a result of Team Liberty's efforts, said Ward, RAF Lakenheath was the only military airfield in England that remained open during the snowstorm and even supported transient military aircraft that could not land elsewhere in England.

Team Liberty's abilities to keep the airfield open were put to the test as 14 F-15Es from the 492nd Fighter Squadron were due to land Jan. 31 after flying in from training exercises in Portugal.

"We had to create parking locations on the fly to recover the 14 jets," said Lt. Col. Stephen Sheehy, 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. "There was some extraordinary work out there. We had people from (48th AMXS) and 48th EMS with snow shovels clearing PASs with snowplows from (horizontal repair)."

With only two tow vehicles available to them, airfield crews worked into the night to make sure each jet was put away out of the elements, said Sheehy.

"Many of my guys worked 14-hour shifts that day," he said. "And through it all, (48th Services Squadron) kept feeding us."

"It was a wild day," said Ward. "It took great teamwork from the base and great preparation. It was a Herculean effort."

Liberty officers make rank

The following RAF Lakenheath officers were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel: Michael J. Arnold, 48th Operations Group; Stephen M. Dale, 48th Services Squadron; Barbara A. Kalmen, 48th Maintenance Operations Squadron; Joel T. Lagasse, 48th Contracting Squadron; Randall L. Langsten, 48th Aerospace Medical Squadron; Om II Prakash, 494th Fighter Squadron; Hans V. Ritschard, 48th MOS.

Cost studies award jobs to contractor

48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

STAFF REPORT

The 48th Fighter Wing Commander announced a cost comparison decision to convert the director of personnel computer support, personnel support management and on-the-job training functions to contract positions.

Competition between in-house and contract performance determined contract performance to be the most efficient and cost effective method of operation. This cost comparison impacted a total of 15 positions to include no officers, 14 enlisted, no Department of Defense civilians and one foreign national civilian position.

Military personnel will be transferred to other duties. There is no impact on civilian employees as the foreign national civilian position was vacant.

This direct conversion was conducted in compliance with the Air Force policies in Air Force Instruction 38-203, Commercial Activities Program that implements the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities. This Circular reaffirms the Government's policy to rely on the private sector for products and services. When in-house performance of commercial activities is not required for national defense reasons and contracting is more cost effective, conversion to contract performance is in the best interest of the American taxpayer.

When a competition between in-house and contract performance determines contracting is more cost effective, OMBC A-76 and Federal Acquisition Regulation require the contractor to offer adversely affected civilian employees the Right of First Refusal for employment openings to positions (under the contract) for which they are qualified. Since DoD is sensitive to the personal impact this action may have on civilian employees, the DoD Program for Stability of Civilian Employment ensures every effort is made to help adversely affected civilian employees who desire placement assistance. These employees are registered in the Defense-wide computerized Priority Placement Program. Registrants under this program receive placement rights to vacancies within DoD (other Federal agencies are also solicited). When adversely affected civilian employees must relocate to continue Federal employment, transportation and moving expenses are paid by the Government.

Top performers win awards

The following Liberty Wing members recently won Air Force civil engineer awards for 2002.

✦ Colin X. King, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, Outstanding Civil Engineer Civilian Supervisor

✦ Paul Claydon, 48th CES, Outstanding Civil Engineer Civilian Technician Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe announced the following RAF Lakenheath unit and individual 2002 nominees for annual Air Force awards:

✦ 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Director's Excellence Award – Large Wing

✦ Maj. Francisco Hamm, 48th FW/PA, Outstanding Public Affairs Field Grade Officer

✦ Senior Airman Jeffrey Hamm, 48th FW/PA, Outstanding Public Affairs Airman

✦ 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels flight, 2002 Golden Drum Award USAFE winner

All USAFE winners will now compete at the Air Force level.



Photo courtesy of the 48th Fighter Wing History Office

50 years of news

On July 4, 1956, the wing's original Statue of Liberty was dedicated at a parade ground in front of the headquarters building at Chaumont, France. In 1955, the comptroller discovered that the factory which produced the Statue of Liberty was located in the tiny town of Sommervoire. Located only 25 miles from the base, Sommervoire also contained the actual molds used by Frederic Auge Bartholdi in making the original Statue of Liberty. The foundry's manager agreed to cast a bronze three-meter statue for a cost of \$1,700, an agreement the wing found too hard to ignore.

Chaumont Air Base residents began an intense effort to raise the needed funds including raffling off a 1956 Ford. By the spring of 1956 the Wing had managed to earn the amount needed to pour the cast. Today, this statue still stands in Chaumont as a lasting tribute to American-French relations. The statue in Liberty Circle was dedicated in 1981 and presented to the wing as a gift from the Officers' Wives Club.

Paperless office – a reality?

Paperless office is one step closer to reality due to the new Air Force electronic records filing system, the Enterprise Storage Network. In one way or another, everyone assigned to RAF Lakenheath can be affected by ESN. The goal, according to Bonnie Harris, 48th Communications Squadron base records manager, is to educate people on the use of ESN and that anything sent to their personal e-mail box could potentially be part of an official record. Harris stressed that organizational e-mail boxes are used to send official correspondence between Air Force organizations and, once e-mail is located within their organizational e-mail box, it then can be transferred into the ESN. For more information, call Harris at 7-3135 or 7-3582.



Mouth piercing – stylish or hazardous?

Mouth piercings to tongues, lips or cheeks can be dangerous, according to the 48th Dental Squadron. The human mouth contains millions of bacteria, and infection, pain and swelling are common complications. Regardless of how "experienced" the person doing the piercing is, piercing can cause uncontrollable bleeding and nerve damage. Piercing can be painful and result in swelling and increased saliva flow and even drooling. Healing may take six weeks or longer if there are complications.

Potential hazards mouth jewelry presents include: choking on studs, barbells or hoops that come loose; chipping or cracking of teeth; and hindering people's speech and eating abilities.

Piercing is a "fashion statement" that involves more than just deciding what jewelry will be attached to the body and where; it could have major consequences for people's oral health, too. For more information, call the 48th DS at 7-8795.



Airman 1st Class
Michael W. Geary Jr.
48th Civil Engineer
Squadron

Liberty Warrior

Hometown:

Cromwell, Ky.

Time in service:

One year, eight months

Time on station:

One year, one month

Role in mission:

Electrical systems

Hobbies: Hunting,

fishing and golfing

Favorite movie: "Men of Honor"

How do you contribute to the wing mission? Ensure all facility electrical systems, security alarm systems and airfield remain operational in support of the mission

If you could change one thing

about the Air Force, what would it be? Let people choose where they're going to be stationed
What do you like most about being in the United Kingdom? Getting to visit where my grandfather served in World War II

How would you improve life at RAF Lakenheath? By stopping the car thieves

Who is your role model and why?

My parents because the way they raised my sisters and I with good values

Who is your favorite leader in history and why? George W. Bush because of the way he led our country during and after Sept. 11, 2001

Commissary renovation project underway

The RAF Lakenheath Commissary will begin a two-year renovation project this month. The renovation will be done in phases and will eventually effect the entire stores operation. During the project, the retail sales and back-up storage areas will be under construction. At times, display areas, both the dry and perishable, will be less than what is currently available.

Staff is working to minimize any disruption in service and the temporary discontinuation of stocking certain products due to space limitations. The remodeling plan is available next to checkout counter number 13 for customer's viewing. For more information, call the commissary at 7-3515.

Members in combat zones earn tax breaks

BY GERRY J. GILMORE

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Military members serving in designated combat zones supporting the global war against terrorism can get a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Depending upon rank, eligible servicemembers can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active-duty pay - and certain other pays - earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone.

According to the Internal Revenue Service's Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2002, "a combat zone is any area the President of the United States designates by Executive Order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat."

Current combat zones are Afghanistan, specified parts of the Kosovo area and the Persian Gulf region. The tax guide defines the qualifying areas.

Servicemembers in several other areas specified as "qualified hazardous-duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since November 1995.

Some people providing direct support for military operations within a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area may also be eligible for income tax exclusions. New areas for 2002 include Djibouti, Africa, after July 1, 2002; and the Philippines after Jan. 9, 2002, providing people's orders specify their duty is "in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines."

Servicemembers who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone are entitled to federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month, according to the IRS.

The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2002 can be accessed on the Web at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf. It lists many, but not all, designated combat zones.

Members can use the tax guide to prepare the 2002 federal tax returns, but specific questions should be addressed to RAF Lakenheath tax center preparers 7-1805 or e-mail tax.center@lakenheath.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo

The Space Shuttle Columbia crew

Two airmen among seven lost in Shuttle disaster

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) — Two Air Force officers were among the seven astronauts lost when the Space Shuttle Columbia apparently broke apart at 9 a.m. EST Saturday in the area over north central Texas. Col. Rick Husband was the mission commander and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson was the payload commander.

The shuttle was preparing to land at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida when NASA's Mission Control in Houston lost contact with the crew. The space vehicle was at an altitude of about 203,000 feet and was traveling at approximately 12,500 miles per hour, or Mach 18, when contact was lost.

Other members of the crew included Commander William McCool, U.S. Navy, pilot for STS-107; Capt. David Brown, USN, mission specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, flight engineer and mission specialist; Cmdr. Laurel Clark, USN, mission specialist; and Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon, payload specialist.

NASA has put out an urgent request to the public to not pick up or disturb any debris that might be found. Also, a call has been made for any amateur video or film that might be helpful in the investigation. For either situation, the public is asked to contact their local law enforcement agency.

Keeping watch

Airman 1st Class Kathryn Elliott, 321st Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, watches avenues of approach from the flightline security checkpoint at a forward-deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Elliott is deployed from RAF Lakenheath.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley

Dorm life



(Far left) Airman 1st Class Stephen Hansen, 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, plays video games in his room. The dorms have outlets for American and British electrical appliances.

(Left) Airman 1st Class Angie Cancino, 48th Communications Squadron, cooks a large meal in her kitchen. The rooms in the one-plus-one dormitories share a full kitchen and a bathroom.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley



Airman Courtney Michels, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron, cleans her room. Squadron first sergeants conduct room inspections to ensure airmen are taking care of their rooms.

From mom and dad's house to Uncle Sam's, airmen talk about living independently

By Tech. Sgt. Claudette Hutchinson
48th Fighter Wing public affairs

Whether a person lives in a mansion or a cardboard box, the wish of everyone is to have privacy, personal space and somewhere to call their own. The Air Force recognizes this need, and in 1997, the Secretary of Defense approved the one-plus-one plan for all the services to offer a single room to all single enlisted people by the year 2005.

The first one-plus-one dormitories were completed here at RAF Lakenheath in 1998 and although they are smaller compared to previous plans, such as the two plus two scheme where two people live in one room and share a bathroom with people in an adjacent room, this new plan makes up for the extra space by offering more privacy.

"The dorms are great," said Airman 1st Class Jarred Brown, 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "I

think we've got it made. We have our own room and share a kitchen and bathroom. I don't mind trading minor inconveniences for having my own room. I am very happy to have my privacy."

Airman 1st Class Kathryn Lyons, 494th Fighter Squadron, says living in the dorms is like living in an apartment, but without the bills.

"I had my own apartment before I came in the Air Force, and this is nice because I don't have to worry

about bills," she said.

Plus, she said she gets to personalize her room.

"You can hang pictures on the walls and decorate your room to your comfort, and I especially like having my own kitchen and bathtub," she said.

Lyons said the only drawback to living in the dorms is that sometimes it gets a bit noisy. However, it's getting much better with the implementation of stricter rules.

According to Dawn Davis, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron chief unaccompanied housing, the rules are necessary in order to enforce the standards and make sure everyone is taking care of government property.

RAF Lakenheath Instructions 32-60 states the basic standards airmen must adhere to while living in the dorms. No pets are allowed, except for fish, and they have to adhere to health and safety inspections. Room inspections are also conducted by their first sergeants, she said.

Occupants are also responsible for the daily upkeep of their living areas as well as the common areas. A list of names is provided by the first sergeants to the dorm managers of airmen assigned to accomplish bay orderly duties, said Davis.

The purpose of bay orderly duties is to ensure the maintenance of the dormitories' common areas such as day rooms, laundry rooms, hallways and outdoor areas on a recurring basis.

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Bennett, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron, said he takes care of his room, however, he understands the need for room inspections, and bay orderlies.

"I don't mind the room inspections. I still think it is fun living here. All my friends live here and we are all

very close. It is a great environment," he said.

"I like it because it is close to work, and many of the other places on base. I really don't need to have a car," said Airman 1st Class Darius White, 48th LRS.

While, the one-plus-one dormitory plan was a welcome sight for new airmen, the Air Force is still going one step further to improving the quality of life with the implementation of the one-plus-four style of dormitories.

According to Davis, constructions are slated for this new plan here at RAF Lakenheath in Fiscal 2004.

"I think they are going to be pretty happy with the new standard coming out. There's going to be four people sharing a common living-room-kitchen area, but they have a private bathroom in their rooms. Plus a washer and dryer in each suite," said Davis.

The base has done a lot of improvements within the past year. We've implemented the same standards across the board for all the dormitories. Our leadership has supported us tremendously, with funding which we used to order new furniture, she explained.

"We spent over \$540,000 on quality of life improvements. We bought all new furniture for some of the units. We spent it on what the airmen wanted. The airmen, first sergeants, got to have a say in the furniture they wanted," said Davies.

"Because, they are the ones that have to live with it, we wanted to make sure that they are a part of the decision making process," she explained.

Airman 1st Class Demario Carson, 48th Dental Squadron, said compared to the dormitories in technical school where he had to share a room, he feels a sense of freedom being here.

"I feel more independent here. I don't have to share my room and I can enjoy my own space," he said.



from
COLD WARRIOR
to

Liberty Warrior

Former Soviet officer chooses Air Force blue

BY TECH. SGT. DEAN J. MILLER

48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commissioned in the final hours of the Cold War, 2nd Lt. Chris Sverkounov, 48th Services Squadron, isn't the typical academy grad. Born a Soviet citizen, Sverkounov completed a five-year, military academy rocketry-engineering program and was commissioned a lieutenant in the Soviet Army. He once commanded a 30-soldier platoon responsible for the air defense of Moscow.

Graduating in the class of 1989, his Soviet military career was doomed. In 1990, Sverkounov was released from service with the break-up of the Soviet Union. At age 22, he entered business as a medical supplies marketing manager, quickly mastering the art of the deal. Business success landed medical equipment supply contracts at hospitals throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States.

A client's suggestion in 1993 to visit the United States fascinated Sverkounov. He had never previously considered the idea, yet, later that year, he arrived in New York City. Driving from the airport deep into Brooklyn and Queens, first impressions of his new home were not encouraging.

"This did not feel like a friendly, clean place," said Sverkounov. "In fact, it felt quite dangerous."

Knowing there was more to America than New York City, he began a three-month sightseeing odyssey that ended in California with a job search. Sverkounov gained employment as a computer support technician for a computer wholesaler where he improved his English significantly.

Two years later, basic construction, carpentry, welding and electrical skills learned at a new job

gave Sverkounov a backstage pass to Hollywood as a movie union worker. He built sets for the blockbuster movies "Flubber," "Fear," "What Dreams May Come," "The Rainmaker," "Scream" and others.

By 1997, he had mastered the English language to the point where his thoughts were in English, not Russian. He had also met his wife-to-be, Kelly, a California native. But he was not satisfied with his career. Nothing had compared to his dream to serve as a military officer.

Sverkounov and Kelly moved to Arizona where he completed real-estate school and the process to become a U.S. citizen. A potential home sale to an Air Force recruiter changed his life's course. While the real-estate agent didn't land the deal, the recruiter did. Sverkounov entered Air Force Officer Training School in April 2002.

"To me, being a military officer is something much bigger than just having a job – it was a calling," said Sverkounov. "In Arizona, I was finally an American citizen. I was 34 years old, married and civilian life didn't scare me at all. The Air Force looked like a good opportunity."

Two experiences in OTS at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., surprised Sverkounov. First, no one really cared or seemed surprised about his prior military experience – which suited him just fine. Second, his engineering degree was not recognized by the Air Force. He could take a job as a services officer or he could leave OTS, forever losing his dream to become an officer.

"I didn't know much about services, but if I left OTS, it would all have been for nothing. I think I would have been a good engineer, but I'm really a people-person," said Sverkounov. "As a services officer, I work with a lot of people and issues that I don't think I would have as an engineer. I really love this job."

Sverkounov is the only member of his OTS

class to be assigned overseas. The irony: he'd hoped to explore his new country and initially had little interest in visiting Europe. Even more ironic, the former Soviet air defender would be assigned to America's Liberty Wing, whose Cold War mission remains ever-present in steel-reinforced concrete facilities.

At Lakenheath since July, the 48th SVS Combat Support Flight officer shapes the food services, lodging and readiness missions within his squadron, directly impacting 70 airmen and their customers' quality of life in one of the most diverse Liberty Wing organizations.

"The longer I'm here, the more I like it," said Sverkounov. "I have highly-supportive leadership and great NCOs and airman."

Sverkounov graduated the Air and Space Basic Course at Maxwell AFB with perfect scores Dec. 20. His attendance drew the interest of Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, who personally welcomed the new officer to the Air Force. Presently, Sverkounov awaits services officer training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"Lieutenant Sverkounov brings a unique perspective from his background in the former Soviet military and his work in private industry as to how we handle our mission of supporting the Liberty Wing," said Maj. Stephen Dale, 48th Services Squadron commander. "His dedication to learning the job has challenged each of us, to not just assume we do something right because we've always done it that way."

Sverkounov, a new American and a new airman, appreciates many aspects of his life, an appreciation he likes to share.

"America truly is the land of opportunity – if you get an education, anything is possible," said Sverkounov, offering sage advice from any leader; excellent advice from a Liberty Warrior.

LADY LANCERS CONTINUE REIGN

boys team cools off



Lakenheath Lancer Allen Weaver (left) defends against a Heidelberg Lion during a game Saturday.

LAKENHEATH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORT

It was Old Man Winter who won Friday night's high school basketball games this weekend. After an onslaught of snow Thursday night and Friday, all games were cancelled. Action reconvened as scheduled on Saturday.

The Lakenheath High School Lady Lancers moved one step closer to the Division I conference championship by defeating the Heidelberg High School Lady Lions 46-41. The girls were off to a hot start leading 16-8 in the first quarter behind the shooting of freshman forward Trinity Bursey. But the Lady Lions were still in the hunt as they fought back in the second to trail by only a 21-17 margin at the half.

"Heidelberg did well down low," said Janis Ready, Lady Lancers coach. "We didn't rebound or box out as well as we needed on the weak side."

The Lady Lancers secured the win with a 13-point third quarter while holding the visitors to 6, then holding on as Lady Lion Megan Briggs led her team to an 18-point shooting spree in the fourth.

"I was pleased with our overall team's performance; six of our 8 girls scored; everyone had playing time, said Ready. "Defensively we did a really good job as well. I am hoping to iron out the wrinkles in our weak side rebounding and play this week to be ready for Wiesbaden."

Bursey led the Lady Lancers with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Andrea McCoy added 11 points; Amanda Hood, Nicole Ryan and Mimi Smith each scored 4 and Tasha Valley 2. The girls, now 9-1, need one more victory to secure the conference championship.

In junior varsity action, the Lady Lancers yielded to the Lady Lions 26-12.

The Lancers boy's team shooting went cold in the second quarter



Photos by Maj. Francisco G. Hamm

Lady Lancer Natasha Valley shoots a free throw during a 46-41 win against the Heidelberg Lady Lions Saturday.

against Heidelberg's league leading team and could not recover despite a hard fought second half performance. Trailing by 3 at the end of the first, the Lancers were outscored 15-5 in the second.

"We changed defenses in the second and Heidelberg adjusted to it, quickly" said John Gilmore, Mens Lancers coach. "We switched again in the third and regained control of our game."

Behind 29-16 at the half, Justin King and John Rogers combined for 8 points and a strong defense held the visiting Lions to 6 to set up the final quarter show down. Trailing 35-24, the Lancers battled back and moved within 3 with 40 seconds left when Heidelberg standout Travis Wesley broke free on a long court lay-up. Both teams exchanged baskets again and time ran out on the Lancers as they fell by a final score of 52-46.

Rogers led the Lancers with 26 points including 14 in the final quarter. Philip Bell and Allen Weaver added 5; Brandon Bitner and King 4; and Jason Ridgeway 2. Rogers added 15 rebounds to his point total with Ridgeway adding 7 rebounds and 2 steals.

The Lancers junior varsity boy's team defeated the Lions 26-12.

SPORTS SHORTS

Ultimate circuit

The health and wellness center offers the Ultimate Circuit fitness class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4 to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 7-2710.

Powerlifting

□ The U.S. Forces Powerlifting Championships are Saturday at the sports and

fitness center. The opening ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 7-3607.

□ The 2003 U.S. of America Powerlifting Military National Championships is March 8 at the Clarion Inn in Houston. All active-duty and retired military USA Powerlifting registered lifters are eligible. For more information, call meet director J. D. Carr at 001 (281) 376-1756.

Coaching opportunities

The Lakenheath women's softball team and the mens' varsity soccer team seeks a coach for

the upcoming season. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. George Lebron at 7-3607.

Valentines events

□ The annual Valentines 5K Fun Walk/Run is Feb. 15 beginning at 10 a.m. The course starts and finishes at the sports and fitness center. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed.

□ The annual Valentines Raquetball Tournament occurs Feb. 21 through 23 at the sports and fitness center. For more information, call 7-3607.

Do you make a difference?

BY LT. COL. BRENT JOHNSON

48TH FIGHTER WING INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hopefully, you all answered yes, because you certainly are making a difference. Making a difference contributes greatly to your mental well-being and also to your unit's mission. Whether you supply intelligence to our forces, put bombs or missiles on target, provide force protection, handle personnel issues, provide medical care, or keep the airfield operating, it's important to make a difference. Good leaders provide vision and make a difference to those entrusted in their care. Effective subordinates seek their leader's vision and execute the mission to make a difference.

The Air Force is presently tasked to fight the war on terrorism through the use of force, if necessary. RAF Lakenheath people accomplish this mission across a broad spectrum. Take a moment to reflect upon your specific role. Take pride in your duties, because you are making a difference. RAF Lakenheath people continue to impress me every day. Our wing presses forward nearly every day with multiple and nearly simultaneous missions. It's only through the highly motivated, professional people we have, that we're able to successfully implement our nation's and commander in chief's objectives. I would like to share my insight concerning frequent temporary duty assignments coupled with a high, home station operations tempo.

Attitude is everything during extended TDYs, high-ops tempo and the hectic pace of a war. You can either be miserable or positive during this situation. It's your choice. To emphasize my point on attitude, let me relate a personal Gulf War experience. I spent five months in Desert Shield/Storm as an Air Force air liaison officer calling in air strikes on Iraqi armor and fortified sites. Both before and after the three-day ground war, I was highly under-utilized. Little training occurred because

the air war was underway and we lived in the middle of the Saudi, Iraqi and Kuwaiti desert. Air conditioning, hot showers, phones and decent food were distant memories. Were we used 100 percent of the time? No. Were we required to be there 100 percent of the time? Absolutely. Even though we were only used 2 percent of the total time, the capability my unit provided was required 100 percent of the time. The capability you provide here and while deployed is required. A proper attitude is essential during these times to accomplish the mission.

A sense of urgency is always crucial. To emphasize this point, I will relate another Desert Storm personal experience. I was abruptly awakened at 3 a.m. the first two mornings of the air war to don my gas mask for two to three hours for suspected chemical attacks. We were deep in the Saudi desert, in an unlikely place of attack, and each alarm turned out to be false. Was it an inconvenience? Sure. Was it necessary to do? Absolutely! The inconvenience of wearing a gas mask for a short time is miniscule compared with the safety provided. I've seen too many people needlessly injured or killed during Desert Storm and follow-on operations in Kuwait. The Air Force needs you uninjured to successfully accomplish our mission. A sense of urgency is the enabling force.

RAF Lakenheath people will perform exceptionally well and make a difference, if we adhere to the principles of attitude and sense of urgency. Never forget the U.S. Air Force core values: Integrity first; Service before Self; and Excellence in all we do. These great core values form the bedrock upon which the Air Force makes a difference. To quote the fictitious Roman Army Commander, Gen. Maximus, from the movie "Gladiator," "The things you do in life now, echo in the eternities." I personally thank you for making a difference and for your tireless efforts in support of America's defense.

Supervisors motivate troops into leaders

Airmen still need guidance and support to become highly productive professionals

BY SENIOR MASTER SGT ROBERT A. ANDERSON

48TH EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Today's Air Force is made up of some of the best and brightest people our nation has to offer. They have to be in order to grasp and master some of the skills and concepts brought on by advances in technology. Nowhere are those attributes more pronounced than at the first- and second-term airman levels. A statement heard quite frequently at all levels of leadership is today's airmen are so much smarter and more advanced than previous generations — and in fact they are. However, these facts have served to somewhat skew our perceptions as supervisors and leaders.

Some may think the "new generation" of airmen are somehow more prepared to be in the military so we no longer need to lead and supervise them as much as we did before. In fact the opposite is true. Our new

airmen aren't much different from previous generations in the sense that they still need tremendous guidance and support to help them become what we need them to become: highly productive and professional members of the world's best Air Force. Yes, they are better paid and enjoy much-deserved improvements in their overall living standards. However, our roles as supervisors and leaders have not changed. This is where some supervisors and leaders have to readjust their thinking and get back to what they do best, motivate and lead our troops into becoming tomorrow's leaders.

To help you understand where I'm going with this, here's a quote by Clarence Francis, former president of General Foods Inc. and strong advocate of leadership, "You can buy a person's time; you can buy their physical presence at a given place; you can even buy a measured number of their skilled muscular motions per hour. But you cannot buy enthusiasm; you can not buy loyalty; you can not buy the devotion of hearts, minds or souls — you must earn these."

People want to be a part of something bigger than they are; they want to feel they

are important and are needed. The increases in monetary compensation, while good, can only go so far without supervisors' and leaders' intervention long before the effects of the initial financial rewards of serving begin to wane. Our people must be guided through seamless transitions into a force that wants to serve because they want to belong to something bigger than they are. Supervisors and leaders must create work environments that promote enthusiasm and devotion, which in-turn develops loyalty and a commitment to serve. We have all acquired the necessary leadership skills and knowledge, through the various levels of professional military education, to guide our people along the correct path.

We overlook this modern day aspect of the Air Force at our future's expense. The notion or attitude of "what's in it for me" must be eschewed at all levels in favor of "how can I help my team succeed." We, as supervisors and leaders, will have successfully served our Air Force team when we get our people emotionally involved in their chosen profession and further their development as a professional force.



Discover Britain

By Sal Davidson – Community Relations Adviser



Watching films in the United Kingdom

After my article regarding film locations in the United Kingdom, I thought I would write one on where to go and watch these movies.

The first thing you have to know is that we go to the cinema, not the theatre. When we go to the theatre it's to see a play on a stage. You may also hear the term "pictures" – another way of saying going to the cinema.

Film classification

Video, film and digital media shown in this country are classified by the British Board of Film Classification and given a category. There are seven classification categories: U, Uc and PG (advisory only) 12, 15 and 18 (restrict viewing by age); and R18 (only available to adults in licensed outlets).

If a work lies on the margin between two categories, when making a final judgement, the BBFC takes into account the intentions of the film-maker, the expectations of the public in general and the work's audience in particular and any special merits of the work.

Classification decisions may be stricter on video than films because of the increased possibility of under-age viewing recognised in the Video Recordings Act. This may result in a video receiving a higher age classification or more cuts being made.

Cinemas in the local area

It is usual to have to drive to see large-screen cinema, although some of the small towns have a couple of screens. Here are some to check out.

❑ Bury St. Edmunds has an Odeon cinema located on Hatter Street. It is possible to get show times and info off their Web site www.odeon.co.uk and the booking line number is (08705) 050007.

❑ Cambridge has a Warner Village with eight screens. It is located in the Grafton Centre and there is parking at the centre. You will always find it busy as it is the nearest complex to the base. There are eating establishments around and close by. You can book ahead of time and pick your tickets up on arrival. Bookings and information number is (08702) 406020 and enquiries number is (01223) 460225.

In Ipswich there are two small film venues in the town center. The larger UCI Cinema complex is just outside the town center; call (08709) 070748. Ipswich Film Theatre is located in the Corn

Exchange in King Street; call (01473) 433100. The Odeon is in St. Margaret's Street; call (08705) 050007.

❑ Peterborough offers Showcase Cinemas located at Frank Perkins Parkway (A1139), Mallory Road, Boongate. To place advance bookings: call (01733) 555 000 or their 24-hour number (01733) 558498.

❑ Norwich has a Ster Century eight-screen complex located in the Castle Mall Shopping Centre. For bookings, call (01603) 221 900. It also has a UCI cinema on the Riverside development which has 14 screens. For 24-hr advance booking and information, call (08700) 102030.

General

Most of our larger shopping malls, such as Lakeside and Bluewater, also have a cinema complex and other leisure activities. For Lakeside call UCI Cinemas at (01708) 860268 or (08700) 102030 for advanced bookings. For Bluewater call Showcase Cinemas at (08701) 628900, or (08702) 427070 for

advanced booking. In London, the largest cinema location is Leicester Square and is where many film premiers can be seen.

Opening hours

Cinemas in the larger towns and cities open around lunch-time and close at midnight. In provincial towns, cinemas usually only open on evenings during the week and afternoons and evenings at weekends, except during British school holidays when they also open weekday afternoons.

Young children and babies

If you have very young children, it is best to check with the cinema before you arrive whether they will be allowed to accompany you. Some cinemas have a policy that will not allow young children and babies.

Useful Web sites

British Board of Film Classification – www.bbfc.co.uk
Odeon Cinemas – www.odeon.co.uk
Showcase Cinemas – www.showcasecinemas.co.uk
Ster Century Cinemas – www.stercentury.co.uk
UCI Cinemas – www.uci.co.uk
Virgin Cinemas – www.virgin.net
Warner Village Cinemas – www.warnervillage.co.uk



Courtesy photo

The largest cinema in London is in Leicester Square.

For more information on living in Britain, look in the British community information public folder, or call Sal Davidson, community relations advisor, at 7-3145, or e-mail sal.davidson@lakenheath.af.mil.



Briefs

ARC basket auction

The RAF Lakenheath American Red Cross Basket Auction planned for Feb. 21 is postponed to a later date

Clinic closure

The family practice clinic closes Tuesday and Wednesday as it moves to its renovated facility on the ground floor of the main hospital. The clinic reopens Thursday for normal duty hours.

MOD holiday policy

Supervisors are encouraged to implement a liberal leave policy for Ministry of Defense employees on designated family days and American holidays. The next holiday is Feb. 17, Presidents Day. If employees wish to take the day off they may request annual leave, leave

without pay, or use earned compensatory time. Supervisors may not excuse employees from duty with pay. For more information, call David Isaac at 98-2610.

FSC classes

The family support center offers the following classes:

Tuesday

- 2 p.m. – Getting Organized
- 2 p.m. – Basic Investing
- 4 p.m. – Common Sense Parenting

Wednesday

- 1:30 p.m. – Resume Writing
- 4 p.m. – Common Sense Parenting
- 6 p.m. – Bereavement Support Group

Thursday

- 2 p.m. – U.S. Home Buying
- 4 p.m. – Kids on the Move

Feb. 14

- 8:45 a.m. – Newcomer's Bus Tour

Kids dental day

The 48th Dental Squadron offers Feb. 21 as "Give Kids a Smile Day", a kids-only treatment day in celebration of Children's Dental Health Month. Parents are encouraged to schedule tooth cleanings, check-ups and other dental procedure.

Tax center information

The RAF Lakenheath Tax Center is now open. Tax preparers will only accept walk-in customers and tax filers dropping off 1040EZ and 1040A forms with W-2 and bank interest information only. The center is located upstairs in the rear of the legal office in Building 1082, and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tax filers can schedule appointments starting Monday.

MOVIES

RAF Mildenhall 98-2351

Today

6:30 p.m., Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets, PG, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Alan Rickman. Harry and friends return for their second year at Hogwarts, where things are far more intense than before. This tale will be darker and a bit more frightening, as the young Harry begins to come into his own as a wizard while doing battle with Draco Malfoy, the Slytherin Quidditch team, and an evil and powerful new foe.

10 p.m., Half Past Dead PG-13, starring Steven Seagal and Morris Chestnut. Criminal mastermind Donny has set in motion a plan to infiltrate a high tech prison in order to persuade a death row inmate to reveal the whereabouts of \$200 million worth of gold. Undercover FBI agent Sascha must stop him before it's too late.

Saturday

3 p.m., Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets, PG, **6:30 p.m., Biker Boyz**, PG-13, starring Laurence Fishburne and Derek Luke. Lawyers and city workers by day, they take to the streets in their leathers to race by night. In the world of underground motorcycle clubs, the undefeated racer known as Smoke is the undisputed "King of Cali." But Smoke's dominance of the set is about to be threatened by a young motorcycle racing prodigy called Kid, who is determined to win Smoke's helmet and earn the coveted title.

10 p.m., Friday After Next, R, starring Ice Cube and K.D. Aubert. A thief is stealing Christmas presents, and cousins Craig Day-Day decide to catch the "ghetto Santa" to keep the spirit of the holiday alive.

Sunday

1 p.m., Jonah - A VeggieTales Movie, G, animated. The Veggie gang set sail on a whale of an adventure in Jonah. The story of Jonah and the whale as you've never seen it before - a story where everyone learns that one of the best gifts you can give or get is a second chance.

4 p.m., Kangaroo Jack, PG, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. When one of them places his red jacket on a kangaroo and the kangaroo bounces off, they realize the mob money is in the jacket and are forced to give chase through the Outback.

6:30 p.m., Biker Boyz, PG-13,

Monday

6:30 p.m., Formula 51, R, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Carlyle. Elmo and his blue magic formula has sparked a gold rush. Everyone wants a piece of the action. Who will out smart whom? Who will double-cross whom? But most importantly, who will walk away with the formula?

Tuesday

6:30 p.m., Half Past Dead, PG-13,

Wednesday

6:30 p.m., Biker Boyz, PG-13,

Thursday

6:30 p.m., Biker Boyz, PG-13,

Editor's note: The Pine View Theatre is scheduled to reopen in March 2003 after renovations.

Correction

One of the Cub Scouts featured on page 22 of the Jan. 24 Jet 48 was misidentified. The child's name is James Dix of the Thunder Patrol.

Youth

Scholarships

□ The Community Scholarship Association offers aid for vocational-school and college-bound seniors. All Department of Defense civilian and military dependents are eligible. For more information, call Diane Howder at 7-5564.

□ The Defense Commissary Agency offers one \$1,500 scholarship at every commissary to an unmarried, under age 21 child of a Department of Defense military member, Reserve, Guard or retiree. The scholarship essay topic is "How has being the child of a military servicemember influenced your educational goals?" For more information, visit www.commissaries.com.

School fundraiser

The Lakenheath Elementary School Parent Teacher and Student Association Bazaar and Silent Auction is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 20 vendors with food, crafts and activities for children will be on scene. All proceeds benefit activities for the children.



Photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Watt

Do-re-mi...

Boys from the Ely Cathedral Choristers perform a Christmas Carol during a music workshop presented to students at Feltwell Elementary School Jan. 30. Students learned about the daily life of the performers and their boarding school in Ely.